the overseas Indian Community. The most fervent plea made by the Indian Diaspora was to provide for a single-window mechanism for its interaction with India. The High Level Committee in its Report recommended the setting up of an autonomous and empowered body structured along the line of the Planning Commission to deal with matters pertaining to the Indian Diaspora. The Government has not taken any decision in the matter.

TRI-lateral Conference

2388. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had refrained from formal participation in the recently held Track-II Tri-lateral Conference of the top military/intelligence/security experts from U.S., Israel and India;

(b) whether the Conference held in India deliberated on the security, military and defence co-operation among the three countries; and

(c) whether the Conference was attended by any serving army officers and others; if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes, Track II dialogue, by definition, involves participation of experts outside the government.

(b) It is reported that the conference discussed a number of issues, including potential for cooperation between India, the United States and Israel on security matters.

(c) Track II Conference do not have official participation.

Delay in issuance of passports in Rajasthan

2389. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of inordinate delay in issuance of passports in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the number of passports issued to the applicants in the State during the last three years and as on date, year-wise;

(c) the number of applications pending so far; and

(d) the measures contemplated by Government for the expeditious disposal of all pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No. The Government endeavours to issue passports within six weeks provided the application is complete in all respects and a clear police verification report has been received. Passport Office, Jaipur is issuing passports within the prescribed time frame.

(b) The number of Passports issued to the applicants during the last three years and as on 28.2.2003 is as follows:—

Year	No. of Passport issued
2000	66480
2001	89232
2002	96840
2003 (upto 28.2.2003)	12509

(c) The number of Passport applications pending in Passport Office Jaipur as on 28.2.2003 is 3211.

(d) Several measures taken by the Government for the expeditious disposal of all pending applications include computerisation of Passport Offices, machine writing of passports, decentralisation of receipt of applications to district level, dispatch of passports by Speed Post and monitoring of the pendency situation in Passport Offices on a weekly basis.

Expenditure incurred by Indian Missions abroad

2390. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minsiter of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lavish expenditure is being incurred by the Indian Missions abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;